



Tales of the Tuskegee Airmen: Pre/Post-Lesson Packet

February 25, 2020

This packet was developed to provide students with greater context into the story of the Tuskegee Airmen prior to the Streamable Learning program with the Virginia War Memorial, as well as discussion questions for afterwards. Teachers are strongly encouraged to go over the biography of Howard Baugh before the program, as the speakers are the sons of Captain Baugh. The glossary and descriptions of planes may be useful for students to have during the program itself.

The program will consist of approximately 30 minutes of presentation followed by a question and answer period, so please have questions ready. Questions may be sent in advance to Morgan Guyer at morgan.guyer@dvs.virginia.gov.

- I. Glossary
- II. Howard Baugh Biography
- III. Tuskegee Planes
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- VI. Howard Baugh Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

GLOSSARY

- Tuskegee Institute: founded in Alabama in 1881 as a school for African-Americans.
- United States Army Air Corps: the predecessor to the US Air Force, the USAAC was the aerial warfare service of the United States Army from 1926-1947
- Congressional Medal of Honor: the United States' highest military honor, awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty
- Harlem Hellfighters: the 369th Infantry unit in World War I (1914-1918), which consisted of only African-Americans and received many awards for bravery in action
- HBCU: Historically Black College or University
- Willa Brown: first African-American woman to become a Master Mechanic, a US trained pilot, and a member of the Civil Air Patrol
- Eleanor Roosevelt: First Lady of the United States from 1933-1945, famously flew in a plane with a black pilot at Tuskegee
- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896): upheld the doctrine of "separate but equal" that was used to racially discriminate throughout the 20th century
- "Red Tailed Angels": a nickname for the pilots who trained at the Tuskegee Institute, given because of the red painted tails on their aircraft (also called "Red Tailed Devils" by enemies)
- Executive Order 8802: issued in June 1941 by FDR; banned discriminatory employment practices by Federal agencies and all unions and companies engaged in war-related work
- Executive Order 9981: issued in July 1948 by Truman; abolished discrimination on the bases of race, color, religion, or national origin in the United States Armed Forces, leading to the desegregation of the military
- Distinguished Flying Cross: military decoration awarded to members of the US Armed Forces who distinguish themselves in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight"
- 99th Pursuit Squadron: originally formed as the US Army Air Corps' first African-American fighter squadron, who received their initial flight training at Tuskegee, AL
- 477th Bombardment Group: trained those who would become known as the Tuskegee Airmen with P-47 Thunderbolts and B-25 Bombers.

HOWARD BAUGH BIOGRAPHY

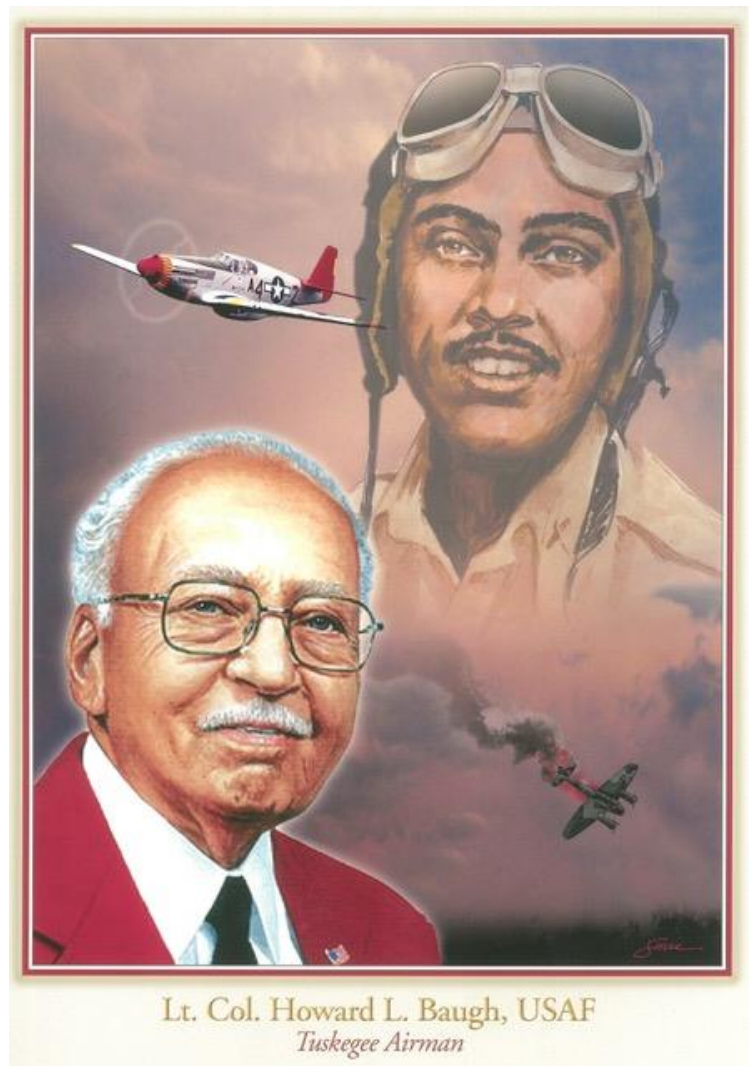
Howard Lee Baugh was an original Tuskegee Airman. A native of Petersburg, VA, he was a decorated WWII Fighter Pilot who flew 135 missions in World War II. Read about his life and legacy below:

Howard Lee Baugh was born in Petersburg, VA on January 20, 1920 to Carrie Rawlings Baugh and William Harrison Baugh. The second of 5 siblings, Howard attended public schools in Petersburg and Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from Virginia State College (University) in 1941 and married his college sweetheart, Constance Jeanette Layne of Geneseo, NY on February 21, 1942.

In March 1942, Howard entered the US Army Air Corps Class 42J as an Aviation Cadet. He successfully completed pilot training at famed Tuskegee (Alabama) Army Air Field in November of 1942 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.

In July 1943, he was assigned to the 99th Fighter Squadron in Sicily. Flying from Sicily and other locations within Italy, he flew 135 combat missions in P-40 Warhawk and P-51 Mustang Fighters. In January 1944, Baugh recorded 1.5 Aerial Victories in air-to-air combat against German FW-190 Fighter Bombers of Anzio. For his 16 months in combat during WWII, Howard was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Distinguished Unit Citation, National Service Defense Medal, and WWII Victory Medal.

During 25 years of active duty in the USAF, he registered 6,000 pilot hours, including 250 combat hours. Throughout his military career, Howard flew 17 different types of military aircraft to include 1,100 hours in 4 types of jet airplanes. Upon his retirement from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) in 1967, he embarked on a second career with Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester NY. Howard retired from Kodak in 1984 and he and his wife Constance moved back to Petersburg.



TUSKEGEE PLANES

The Tuskegee Airmen primarily used the following types of aircraft:

P-40 Warhawk:

American, single seat, single engine, all metal, fighter and ground attack aircraft. A redesign of the P-36 hawk, made to be easier to mass produce. Third most produced American fighter of WWII, right behind the P-51 and P-47. The P-40 lacked the speed or altitude capabilities to compete against the German Luftwaffe, and thus rarely saw combat in Europe. It was more prominently featured in theaters such as Africa, the Pacific, and China.



P-47 Thunderbolt:

Heaviest of the fighter-bombers during WWII, its size dwarfed that of other fighters. Primary armament included .50 caliber machine guns, it could also be fitted with five-inch rockets or a bomb load of up to 2,500 pounds. It saw service in other Allied units including, France, England, and the Soviet Union.



P-51 Mustang:

Single seat, long range, fighter-bomber. The Mustang was originally commissioned by the British RAF, designed by North America Aviation, and refitted with a Rolls-Royce Merlin engine, the Mustang quickly became one of the most effective fighters to see service in WWII. With its increased range, altitude, and versatility the P-51 was able to hold its own with the infamous German Luftwaffe



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to “fight for the right to fight?” Are there similar fights going on today?
2. Why were white officers appointed as administrators for the all black units of the Tuskegee Airmen, despite having qualified and trained black officers that could have assumed these posts?
3. The “Tuskegee Experiment” was credited with establishing the first black pilots in the American Armed Services. Tuskegee turned out more than just pilots. What other training did soldiers receive at Tuskegee and for what jobs? Why was this necessary?
4. The Tuskegee Airmen worked tirelessly to establish an exemplary military track record, and a lengthy list of accommodations, medals, and achievements. Despite their success and fame, they still experienced racism and segregation inside the military and out. What can the Tuskegee Airmen’s history and experience show about the institution of segregation and racism?
5. The 99th Pursuit Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group were the only Tuskegee units to see combat during the war. Despite the wide spread acclaim and success of these two units, the other Tuskegee units were largely left out of the conflict. Why didn’t other Tuskegee units get to fly combat missions? Why were these two units so successful?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Films:

- The Tuskegee Airmen (1995)
- Red Tails (2012)

Books:

- [List from Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.](#)

Websites:

- [Howard Baugh Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Inc.](#)